

15 August 1974

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO Middle East

SUBJECT : [REDACTED] Missions -- the Timesaving of
NISC Versus EK Processing

1. Considerable timesaving in the delivery of [REDACTED] film to third-parties has been realized by expediting exploitation and simplifying release of the film. The timing of delivery has varied somewhat with each mission because of differences in travel schedules, minor processing problems, and exploitation procedures, but they have tended to balance out. For the last two missions (5 and 11 August), the total elapse time between the return to base of the mission aircraft and arrival of special film copies in the participant country has been about 3½-4 days, that is, between 82-100 hours. For previous missions the elapsed time was on the order of 10-12 days.

2. The elapsed time during each major phase of the process is shown below for the two most recent missions - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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	<u>JA007</u>	<u>JA008</u>
Launch of aircraft	---	---
Film Arrival at EK	21.5 hrs	24.0 hrs
Film Arrival at NPIC	35.5 hrs	42.5 hrs
Film ready for shipment	61.5 hrs	56.0 hrs
Arrival in [REDACTED]	86.5 hrs	73.0 hrs
Arrival in [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	103/110 hrs	82/85 (scheduled)*

3. Transportation of unprocessed film took about 20 hours for each mission; film processing and delivery to NPIC took about 14 for JA007 and 18 hours for JA008; from initial exploitation through preparation of third-party material took 26 hours for JA007 and 14 hours for JA008; and movement of film to third-parties took the remaining time.

4. It is estimated that about eight hours could be saved by processing [REDACTED] film at NISC rather than EK. The saving is in transportation time -- eliminating the dog leg from Dover (Delaware) to Rochester to Andrews AFB. NISC also could produce film copies in two phases, with first priority to copies needed by NPIC and then producing community copies. At present, EK produces all of the copies before shipment.

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5. NISC capability: NISC is technically capable of processing the film. It has been involved in processing U-2 film from both Cuba and China missions. The presence of technical representatives from EK would provide some added insurance. The total cost of processing film at NISC versus EK probably would not differ significantly, although funding arrangements with the NRO would be required.

6. In addition to the reduction in transportation time, processing at NISC normally would make the film available to NPIC at a better time of the day. Using Missions JA007 and JA008 as models, for example, film would have been available to NPIC in early to mid-morning with NISC processing rather than mid- or late-afternoon as with EK. This would have allowed NPIC to exploit the film in a more "normal" manner.

7. On balance, if it is judged that the eight hours total difference in time is sufficiently important, I would recommend processing the next mission at NISC.

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